from time to time, appoint. The proposal for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi was referred to the Chief Justice of India for consideration. The Government has been informed that the Full Court at a meeting of the Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court on 30th April, 2001 have unanimously opposed the setting up of the Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

Opening of Supreme Court Benches and High Courts

2363. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open Supreme Court Benches in different parts of country and the High Courts in the remote districts of States;

(b) whether Government have specific proposal and plan for judicial reform -for early disposal of cases; and

(c) by when Government are proposing to implement this reform?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such otherc place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, in consultation with the President, from time to time, appoint. The proposal for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi was referred to the Chief Justice of India for consideration. The Government has been informed that the Full Court at a meeting of the Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court on 30th April, 2001 have unanimously opposed the setting up of the Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

The setting up of a Bench of a High Court away from its principal scat is considered on the receipt of a complete proposal from the concerned State Government with the consent of the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has received complete proposals for setting up Benches of the Madras High Court and the Calcutta High Court only. Accordingly, it is proposed to establish a Bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai and a Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri, after infrastructural facilities like court buildings, accommodation for Judges etc. arc provided by the respective Slate Governments to the satisfaction of the High Court.

(b) Both the Government and the judiciary arc concerned about the pendency of cases.

Government has taken steps for amending various procedural laws from time to time to simplify procedures to speed up disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies, like the Law Commission, Malimath Committee etc. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 and the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2000 are pending consideration of Parliament.

Other measures, *inter alia,* include increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/ Tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates, computerisation of courts and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 502.90 crore for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of long pending sessions cases and cases involving undertrials on priority. So far 459 Fast Track Courts have been set up in various States.

A pilot project for the computerisation and networking of all courts in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai is being taken up in the year 2001-02 to serve as a model for other courts in the country.

(c) Judicial Reforms is a continuous process. Hence, no specific time frame can be fixed for the implementation of the same.

Recommendation of Law Commission Relating to Political Parties

2364. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has made a recommendation for regulating the formation, functioning and organization of political parties by law; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons advanced by the Commission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Law Commission of India, in its 170th Report on Reform of the Electoral Laws has recommended insertion of new Part-ll A titled 'Organisation of Political Parties and matters incidental thereto' in the Representation of the People Act, 1951.